

EIR Regional Transportation Plan Environmental Impact Report

Spring/Summer 2003



The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires agencies to prepare and circulate an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) before approving a project that may cause significant environmental effects.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

After over thirty years of implementation, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has become the most comprehensive and important environmental law in California. Procedurally, CEQA requires agencies to evaluate a wide range of environmental effects and to disclose all significant effects in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Substantively, it mandates agencies to reduce or avoid significant effects by requiring the adoption of feasible alternatives or mitigation. The CEQA process provides a multidisciplinary, environmental planning tool to help safeguard California's natural environment and help protect the health and well being of all Californians.

Useful Environmental Planning Tool

The EIR for the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will fulfill legal requirements and will provide an opportunity to inform decision-makers and the public about potential environmental effects of the RTP Alternatives. This Program EIR will broadly evaluate environmental effects, on factors such as air quality, water quality, and cumulative impacts, and will include mitigation to reduce significant environmental effects to the extent feasible. It will support the selection of the preferred Plan and supply the foundation for the subsequent,

site-specific environmental reviews that will be conducted by implementation agencies as projects in the RTP are developed. Most importantly, the EIR will provide useful regional-scale environmental analysis to help local agencies evaluate and protect our environment.

Planning Process

Currently, SCAG is employing an innovative planning process known as PILUT—Planning for Integrated Land Use and Transportation. The process is being guided by Compass Growth Visioning, which is participatory effort to help move Southern California towards a more sustainable future. Alternative transportation/ land use plans will be evaluated during the PILUT process. Active participation from stakeholders and the public will help ensure that the analysis is relevant, inclusive, and useful.

Schedule

A Draft EIR will be available by Fall of 2003, followed by a 45 day public comment period with a public hearing. Adoption of the Final EIR will be made by the Regional Council in April 2004.

Contact Information

For more information on the EIR, please contact Ted Harris at 213.236.1916 or harrist@scag.ca.gov.

Or visit the SCAG Web site at: www.scag.ca.gov



Resolving Regional Challenges

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